

Prof. Mary Ioannidou Koutselini

President of the Council of
the Agency of Quality Assurance
and Accreditation in Higher Education
1434 Nicosia

14 June 2021

Ref No: 07.14.341.001, 07.14.345.014, 07.14.345.021

Dear Professor Koutselini,

SUBJECT: Evaluation for the Department of Law, Law (4 years. 240 ECTS, Bachelor with Honours), Law (1 year, 90 ECTS, Master) - UCLan Cyprus

In response to the latest correspondence of 1st of June 2021 from CyQAA, for which we are thanking you, on the evaluation of the UCLan Cyprus Department of Law and the programmes of study LLB (Hons) Law (4 years. 240 ECTS, Bachelor with Honours) and LLM Law (1 year, 90 ECTS, Master), please find below further clarifications to the points raised in your letter:

- *Να αποσταλεί βραχυπρόθεσμος και μεσοπρόθεσμος προγραμματισμός για αύξηση του μόνιμου προσωπικού στο 70%, σύμφωνα με τη Νομοθεσία περί Ιδιωτικών Πανεπιστημίων και σύμφωνα με την υπόδειξη της ΕΕΑ. «The ratio between full-time academics and special teaching staff should be improved».*

In accordance with the QA processes described in our application for departmental accreditation, a series of qualitative and quantitative indicators are in place across quality of teaching, but also learning which ensure best student experience and compliance with CyQAA (DIPAE) requirements. We are committed to monitoring the situation at the short, medium and long term through a series of metrics. These metrics include levels and scopes of expertise available at the School in a given academic year, per programme and for a validation cycle. It is worth mentioning that the quality of teaching and learning as well as the students' experience are among the performance indicators that are taken into consideration by the Head, the Board



and the Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee of the School of Law. The University and the School of Law are committed to maintaining the student to academic staff ratio at the most efficient level possible and therefore, respective provision of additional faculty and/or administrative staff is in place in direct relation with the increase of the students' numbers. Furthermore, in line with CyQAA requirements in terms of the ratio Research-Teaching Faculty (RTF) vs Special Teaching Staff (STS) of 70%-30%, the School of Law is committed to keep the ratio at the highest level towards the number of RTF.

The profiles of academic staff involved in the teaching of the LLB and LLM law at the School of Law of UCLan Cyprus are available below for your reference:

LLB - Please see relevant webpage with all School of Law Faculty:

https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/undergraduate-course/bachelor-of-laws-llb-hons#tab_e/

Research Teaching Faculty

1. Dr. Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, LLB COURSE LEADER. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-hadjigeorgiou-nasia/>
2. Dr. Lida Pitsillidou, LECTURER IN COMPANY LAW AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE/ LLB DEPUTY COURSE LEADER AND RESEARCH DEGREE TUTOR. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-lida-pitsillidou/>
3. Prof. Stephanie Laulhe Shaelou, HEAD OF LAW SCHOOL AND PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN LAW AND REFORM. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-laulhe-shaelou-stephanie/>
4. Dr. Klearchos Kyriakides, DEPUTY HEAD & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH LAW AND LEGAL PRACTICE. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-klearchos-kyriakides/>
5. Dr. Nevi Agapiou, LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION LLM COURSE LEADER – PROGRAMME COORDINATOR. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-agapiou-nevi/>
6. Dr. Demetra Loizou, LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND LEGAL SKILLS, LLM DEPUTY COURSE LEADER. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-demetra-loizou/>
7. Dr. Andreas Marcou, LECTURER IN EU LAW AND THEORY. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-andreas-marcou/>
8. Dr. Maria Tatsiou, LECTURER IN FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-maria-tatsiou/>
9. Dr. Andria Michael, LECTURER IN ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND DEPUTY COURSE LEADER OF BA (HONS) ENGLISH STUDIES. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-andria-michael/>
10. Ms. Amy Grant, SENIOR VISITING FELLOW, SCHOOL OF LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/ms-amy-grant/>



Associate Lecturers (Special Teaching Staff)

1. Dr. Despina Christofi, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN FINANCIAL LAW AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-despina-christofi/>
2. Dr. Georgia Charalambidou, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN MEDICAL LAW.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/mrs-georgia-charalambidou/>
3. Mr. Charilaos Velaris, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN CYPRUS LAW.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/velaris-charilaos/>

We wish to reiterate that the role of special teaching staff is largely **supportive** of the RTF of the School who are mainly responsible for running these modules. Further, it should be noted that all compulsory modules are exclusively taught by full-time teaching staff, with special teaching staff contributing only in a limited number of optional modules. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the ratios of full-time teaching staff to special teaching staff and of subjects being taught by full-time and part-time teaching staff are in **full compliance with the 70%-30% threshold**. We would like to inform CyQAA that a new full-time position, starting 1st of September 2021 has been offered at the School of Law at the rank of Lecturer or Assistant Professor in the field of EU Business Law of high importance to both LLB and the LLM Law in our efforts to enhance the community of RTF of the School.

LLM Law – Please see relevant webpage with all Teaching Faculty:
https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/postgraduate-course/master-of-laws-llm#tab_e/

Research Teaching Faculty

1. Dr. Nevi Agapiou, LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION LLM COURSE LEADER – PROGRAMME COORDINATOR. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-agapiou-nevi/>
2. Dr. Demetra Loizou, LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND LEGAL SKILLS, LLM DEPUTY COURSE LEADER.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-demetra-loizou/>
3. Prof. Stephanie Laulhe Shaelou, HEAD OF LAW SCHOOL AND PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN LAW AND REFORM. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-laulhe-shaelou-stephanie/>
4. Dr. Klearchos Kyriakides, DEPUTY HEAD, & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH LAW AND LEGAL PRACTICE.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-klearchos-kyriakides/>
5. Dr. Andreas Marcou, LECTURER IN EU LAW AND THEORY.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-andreas-marcou/>
6. Dr. Maria Tatsiou, LECTURER IN FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE LAW.
<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-maria-tatsiou/>



7. Dr. Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, LLB COURSE LEADER. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-hadjigeorgiou-nasia/>
8. Dr. Lida Pitsillidou, LECTURER IN COMPANY LAW AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE/ LLB DEPUTY COURSE LEADER AND RESEARCH DEGREE TUTOR. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-lida-pitsillidou/>
9. Dr. Daniele D’Alvia, VISITING FELLOW OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND TRANSACTIONS LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-avv-daniele-d-alvia/>
10. Dr. Henrik Andersen. SENIOR VISITING FELLOW IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-henrik-andersen/>

Associate Lecturers (Special Teaching Staff for very specialised topics – not all teaching during the same academic year nor same cohorts)

1. Dr. Despina Christofi, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN FINANCIAL LAW AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-despina-christofi/>
2. Dr. Sonia Ajini, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN SHIPPING LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/dr-sonia-ajini-2/>
3. Mr. George Chr. Pelaghias, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/george-chr-pelaghias/>
4. Mr. Andreas Xenofontos, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN ENERGY LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/andreas-xenofontos/>
5. Mr. Sozos-Christos Theodoulou, ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW. <https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/academic/mr-sozos-christos-theodoulou/>

We would like to reiterate with respect to the LLM Law that the role of special teaching staff is largely supportive of the full-time teaching staff that are responsible for running this programme. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the very specialised Associate Lecturers, through their expertise, professional experience and practical approach, contribute to the enhancement of the students learning experience and development of legal skills, further enhancing their professional skills. It should also be mentioned that some special teaching staff are themselves engaged in research, implement research-informed teaching and are holders of PhD degrees. The importance of the practitioner’s input has been confirmed on numerous occasions by the students themselves at advanced Master level. Depending on the modules eventually on offer every year following module registration, the ratios of full-time teaching staff to special teaching staff and of subjects being taught by full-time and part-time teaching staff may vary slightly as a wide range of expertise is required on the LLM. Such ratios are certainly kept at satisfactory level, **always abiding to the 70%/30% threshold**, and every effort is made to maintain and further improve these ratios every year. In order to durably and



effectively strengthen the full time Research Teaching Staff at the School, a new full-time position, starting 1st of September 2021 has been offered at the School of Law at the rank of Lecturer or Assistant Professor in the field of EU Business Law of high importance to both LLB and the LLM Law.

- *Η εισδοχή στο πρόγραμμα φοιτητών με 5.5 IELTS δεν τους καθιστά ικανούς να αντεπεξέλθουν σε πρόγραμμα Νομικής και θα πρέπει να ενημερώσετε τον Φοράς για την αντιμετώπιση του θέματος και τη βελτίωση, σύμφωνα με την παρατήρηση της EEA.2 “The Committee believes that there is room for increasing the admission requirements for the LLB particularly since 5,5 IELTS is low for a degree taught in English.”*

We would like to reiterate that from its initial accreditation in 2012, the programme had implemented the admission criteria for English language proficiency at B2 level (IELTS 5.5 equivalent) according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), in full compliance with CY QAA requirement as per 9th of September 2020, and that we will continue doing so. We are happy to report that thanks to all university mechanisms supporting student progression and QA processes, we have had no substantial issues with students entering the programme with IELTS 5.5. This is because during the course of their first year of studies with us on the LLB, all students have the opportunity to enhance their academic **oral and writings skills** at a level IELTS 6.5 equivalent, by opting for modules such as **English for Academic Purposes** or **Professional Development and Skills**, that support the development of **appropriate and targeted-to-law** oral and written skills to communicate legal points and arguments effectively, whereas other modules are assessed by a combination of **oral and written assessments including moots**. In subsequent years, students further enhance their academic and professional skills with modules such as **Mooting and Legal Debating, Research Methods, Project, Dissertation** or **Professionalism and Work Based Learning**. It is worth mentioning that UCLan Cyprus Language Academy is a registered Centre for the Test of Legal English Skills Examinations by TOLES Legal, UK (see appendix 1) and in this framework, it organises a series of courses related to Legal English Skills. Studies at the Law School are supported further by the WISER initiative for students experiencing academic English related challenges. Unparalleled in terms of its approach and delivery, the services and tools under **WISER** aim to improve the academic English & academic skills of all students by improving the capability and competency of students, delivered through a coaching approach. WISER offers assignment checking, 1-2-1 tutorials and feedback sessions, learner training, the development of individualised study plans, a conversation club, academic workshops, e-learning material, online academic English learning packages and finally a social media WISER community page. WISER has been pivotal in providing in-depth feedback on the learner experience at the School and University level. WISER is considered a preventative measure as well as a support mechanism for our students and can be used from the very beginning to the completion of their studies at UCLan Cyprus.



Concluding our response, we would like to thank again the EEC and CyQAA Council for their positive and constructive comments allowing us to offer a high-quality contemporary, appealing and market-oriented programme.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stephanie Lauhlé- Shaelou
Head of the School of Law

Professor Panikkos Poutziouris
Rector